

Evidence of NX 1677 Private VERDUN CLIVE BALL.

Verdun Clive Ball, being duly sworn by His Honour, states:

My full number, name, rank and unit are NX 1677 Private Verdun Clive Ball, 8th Division A.A.S.C., attached to 2/21 Aust. Infantry Battalion. My home address is Caswell Street, Peak Hill, New South Wales.

I was captured on 3 February 1942 and confined in Tan Toey camp. I was released on 10 September, 1945.

I saw the bashing of the Dutch personnel from the camp. I cannot identify any of the Japanese guards involved. The distance from the camp to the hill where the beating took place was about 150 yards. The guards who did the bashing were not local guards and were taken away later.

I was one of the 23 Australians who were beaten. We volunteered the information that we had broken camp. A certain number were taken from the camp and eight of the remainder volunteered their names. We were told the punishment would be lighter if we did this. I was taken to the same Japanese Headquarters on the hill outside the camp. We went before a Japanese Island Commander, Capt. Hando, who asked us question through an interpreter. In the room we were bashed with pick handles in front of the captain. One of the guards who bashed me was nicknamed "Horseface".

After we had been beaten in the room we were taken outside and tied together in a row, with one hand in front and one behind. Whilst I was there I saw Ikiuchi come out and belt one of the Australians who was there when we arrived with a pick handle. He had a broken arm and was belted all over the back.

I was bashed again that night and tied up for the night. This occurred about dusk. We were tied around a tree in a ring, making a complete circle. We had to stay there all night and were not allowed to lean back against the tree. When we asked for water individual guards would give us a drink. We did not get any food until the next morning, when the usual ration of rice was brought up from the camp.

Next day I was again bashed; this was the heaviest beating of them all. The Japanese guards beat us with pick handles and pieces of bowser pipes. I was hit mostly from the small of the back down to the knees. I do not know the names of the men involved but I could identify them by sight. They were regular prison guards at the time but were later shifted. Two are still on Ambon Island; there may be a lot more but I have not seen them.

FILE COPY

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While I was at the Headquarters, I saw a truck come up. Ten men were loaded on to the truck and one into a motor car. He was completely unconscious and may have been dead. I do not know what had happened to these eleven men as they were at the Headquarters before we arrived. During that time I know they were bashed because we could hear them screaming practically every night. They were tortured by some of the guards privately. I never saw those eleven men again after they had been taken away.

The Japanese guards put lighted cigarettes on the back of my neck and once on my forehead. They used to flick me with their fingers in the one spot on the forehead for a considerable time to give me a headache. I saw them put lighted cigarettes on some of the Australians' noses to put them out.

Some of the men who were with me when I was bashed received worse treatment than I did; they lay down and were kicked and tied up. I was put in hospital as a result of the beating but the Japanese sent down word that I was not to be kept in hospital and I was then sent back to the hut. I was in bed for about three weeks. I practically lost the use of my legs and for three or four months after I was just able to get about by shuffling. Gradually I regained my strength. I did light work and was ordered by the doctor not to go out to work. However, I did a little work later on on the working parties.

I was present when Private Tait was beaten, in about September 1944. He was accused of stealing binoculars from an air raid shelter. He was brought back to the camp and I saw everything from the kitchen where I was working. He was bashed at the guard house in the camp and was only about 30 yards away from me, across the road. He was beaten by a guard nicknamed "Frillneck". Ikiuchi was present and saw the bashing. When the Commandant came out, he hit him a couple of times on the head with a light stick and rolled him over a couple of times so that the other guard could hit him more. W/C Weimura was also present.

Private Tait was beaten with pick handles. Two pick handles were broken on him; eventually they got one strong enough. He was knocked unconscious two or three times; then the Commandant threw water over him and when he came to he was beaten again. In the end, he was left lying in the rain for about half an hour. Our Officer tried all the time to have him removed and eventually he was taken away to hospital on a stretcher. He never recovered properly. He lost the use of his legs and could only just get about. Eventually, he died.

Not many of the Australians who were beaten lost the use of their legs as much as I did; those who were fat did not suffer so badly

but the thin ones did. My normal weight is 10 stone 7 lbs., but my weight when I came out of camp was about 9 stone. I was down to about 8 stone 7 lbs. at one time.

Up till one year ago the food was reasonable; you could live on it. During the last year, however, from August until the end of the war the rations were about 4 ounces of rice per day and a small issue of rotten potatoes that no-one else could eat.

It was a regular thing for someone to be beaten every morning, or jumped on or kicked. We were beaten for not being able to get about quickly or for being a bit late in coming out of our huts; it was generally for very paltry things. Ikiuchi was the main one who beat them on sores or ulcers. He hit Major Westley one day on an ulcer for being late on parade.

I certify that the above evidence is true and correct.

Taken and sworn before me at Morotai)

on this 25th day of September 1945)

A. Mansfield)

Commissioner)

V.C. BALL

Ex. 1822-A

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FILE COPY

「ウエルダアン クライア ボー」ハ自分ノ名譽
ニカケテ誓ツテ陳述致シマス。
私ハ第四〇。一六七番ノ「ウエルダアン クライア ボー
ルト」云フ兵卒デシテ遼洲ノ二ノ二十一歩兵大隊ノ
第八分隊ニ屬シテ居リマシタ。
私ノ家ハ「ニユウサワスウエルス」ノビルノ
「カセウエ」通りニ在リマシタ。
私ハ一九四二年（昭和十七年）二月三日ニ捕ヘラレ
「タントイ」捕虜收容所ニ監禁セラレテ一九四五年
（昭和二十年）九月十日ニ解放サレマシタ。私ハ此ノ捕
虜收容所ニ於テ和蘭人ガ殴打サレタノヲ目撃シタノ
デアリマス。
私ハソレニ連累シタ日本ノ番兵ヲ一人一人誰カ見別
ケル事ハ出来マセン。捕虜連ノ殴打ハ岡ノ上テ行ハ
レマシテ捕虜收容所カラ一五〇「ヤード」位ノ處テ
シタ。
殴打シタ番兵ニハ其地方担任ノ番兵デハナク後日他
ヘ移サレマシタ。私ハ二十三人ノ遼洲人ガ殴打サレ
タ其内ノ一人デス。
吾々ハ捕虜收容所ヲ破壊シタ事ヲ進ンテ申出デマシ
タ。一部ノ捕虜ニハ他ヘ移サレ、残サレタ捕虜連ノ
内八人ノ者ハ進ンテ自分ノ氏名ヲ名乗リマシタ。
吾々ハ氏名ヲ名乗ルト刑罰ガ輕クナル事ヲ陳カサレ

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テ居リマシタ。私ハ捕虜收容所ノ外ノ岡ノ上ニアル
同ジ日本ノ司令部ニ連行サレマシタ。
吾々ハ日本ノ島ノ指揮者デアル「ハンドー」大尉ノ
許ニ行キマシタ。
此人ハ通譯ヲ通シテ吾々ニ質問シタノデアリマス。
吾々ハ其ノ部屋デ此ノ大尉ノ面前デ轆轤ノ柄ヲ以テ
殴打サレマシタ。私ヲ殴打シタ番兵ノ一人ハ「馬ノ
糞」ト云フ綽名ノ人デシタ。吾々ハ其ノ部屋デ殴打
サレテカラ外ヘ連れ出サレ片方ノ手ハ前ニ、片方ノ
手ハ後ニシテ列ヲナシテ縛ラレマシタ。
私ハ外ニ居ル間ニ「イキウテ」ト云フ人ガ出テ來マ
シテ一人ノ濠洲人ヲ轆轤ノ柄デ殴打スルノヲ見マシ
タ。此ノ濠洲人ハ吾々ガ外ヘ出ル前ニ外ニ居タノデ
シタ。彼ハ腕ヲ折ラレ、背中ヲ幾ク殴打サレテ居マ
シタ。其腕私ハ再ビ殴打サレテ縛ラレマシタ。是ハ
夕方頃行ハレマシタ。吾々ハ一本ノ木ノ周圍ニ完全
ナル圓形ヲナシテ縛ラレマシタ。吾々ハ一晩中其處
ニ滞マラネバナリマセンデシタ。而シテ木ニ危害リカ
カル事ヲ許サレマセンデシタ。吾々ハ水ヲ要求シマ
スト番兵達ハ一杯ノ水ヲ呉レマシタ。
翌朝迄ドンナ食糧モ與ヘラレズ、翌朝ニナリテ捕虜
收容所カラ平常ノ如キ飯ノ配給ガアリマシタ。翌日
長ビ私ハ今迄ニナイ程ニ強ク殴打サレマシタ。

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日本ノ番兵等ハ機銃ノ銃トガソリン油ヲ焚ス時使用
スルゴム管ノ切斷ヲ以テ言々ヲ毆打シマシタ。
私ハ背中ノ一帯カラ銃弾毆打サレマシタ。
私ハ其番兵等ノ名前ハ知リマセシガ見レバ停リマス。
彼等ハ當時正當ノ職務ヲ行ヒテアリマシタガ後日他へ
轉任サセラレマシタ。彼等ノ内二人ハ末タ「アキボ
ン」島ニ留ツテ居リマス。モツト海山ヲツテ居ルカ
モ知レマセンガ私ハ見タ事ハアリマセン。私ハ司令
部ニ居ル時ニ一臺ノ愛車ガ來マシタ。此愛車二十人
乗セラレ、但ノ一人ハ目録車ニ乗セラレマシタ。目
録車ニ乗セラレタ一人ハ全く無意識デシタ。多分死
亡シテ居タノデセウ。是等十一人ノ人々ハ言々ガ司
令部ニ來ル以前カラ司令部ニ居リマシタノデ、如何
ナル事ガアツタノカ私ニハ係リマセンデシタ。
當時弟下等機銃等ノ叫聲ヲ聞キマシタノデ彼等ハ毆
打サレタ事ガ停リマス。
彼等ハ一帯ノ番兵ニ密カニ處待サレマシタ。是等十
一人ノ人々が通行サレタ後ハ私ハ一度モ言ヘマセン
デシタ。

日本ノ番兵等ハ私ノ首筋ニ火ノ附イタ總煙草ヲ燃キ
マシタ。一度ハ私ノ背ニ置キマシタ。番兵等ハ私ニ
頭痛ヲ起サセル爲ニ強テ私ノ背ノ一箇所ヲ長イ筒屬
タ毆打シマシタ。私ハ番兵等ガ或ル澳洲人ノ鼻ノ上テ

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巻煙草ノ火ヲ消シテ居ルノヲ見マシタ。私ガ毆打サ
レタ時一詰ニ居タ一部ノ人々ハ私以上ニ虐待サレマ
シタ。彼等ハ癢カサレ、蹴ラレ、縛ラレタノデシタ
私ハ毆ラレマシタノデ病院ニ送ラレマシタガ、日本
人ハ私ヲ病院ニ置クベキデナイト云ヒマシタノデ、
其レカラ私ハ小屋ニ返サレマシタ。私ハ約三週間療
テ居リマシタ。

私ハ事實上足ノ使用ガ出来ナクナリ、ソレカラ三、
四週間後漸ヤク歩キ始メ得ル様ニナリマシタ。
漸次私ハ体力ヲ回復シマシタ。

私ハ樂ナ仕事ヲシマシタガ、醫師ハ仕事ヲシナイ様
ニ命ジマシタ。

然シ私ハ後日仕事仲間ト共ニ輕作業ノ仕事ヲシマシ
タ。

兵卒ノ「タイト」ガ毆ラレタ時私ハ一詰ニ居リマシ
タ。其レハ一九四四年（昭和十九年）ノ九月頃デシ
タ。

「タイト」ハ空襲避難所カラ灰塵鏡ヲ盗ンダト云フ
罪ヲ負ハサレタノデス。彼ハ捕虜収容所ニ連レ戻サ
レマシタ。私ハ仕事場ノ台所カラ何ンデモ見ル事が
出来マシタ。彼ハ捕虜収容所ノ看護兵詰所デ毆ラレマ
シタ。其レハ私カラ遠隔ヲ越エテ僅カ三〇「ヤード」
程離レタ處デアリマシタ。彼ハ「髪ノアル頸」ト云

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フ傳名ノ番兵ニ毆ラレタノデス。「イキウチ」ハ其
 場テ目撃シテ居リマシタ。指揮官ガ來マシタ時「イ
 キウチ」ハ輕イステソキデ彼ノ頭ヲ二回毆ツテ二回
 轉ガシマシタノデ他ノ番兵モ彼ヲヨリ多ク毆ル事ガ
 出來ル様。「シエイムラ」組士官モ其場ニ居マシタ
 「タイト」兵卒ハ鶴嘴ノ柄ヲ毆打サレマシタ。二本
 ノ鶴嘴ノ柄ガ毆打ニ攸リ折レタノデモツト丈夫ナ一
 本ノ鶴嘴ノ柄ヲ持ツテ來マシタ。彼ハ二三回人事不
 省ニナル迄毆打セラレマシタ。スルト指揮官ガ水ヲ
 浴セマシテ正氣附クト又毆打サレタノデス。
 終ニ彼ハ兩ノ中ニ半時間程放置サレテ居リマシタ。
 吾々ノ士官ハ始終彼ヲ移ス様ニ努メマシタノデ終ニ
 彼ハ擔架デ病院ニ送ラレマシタ。彼ハ決シテ肩調ニ
 回復シマセンデシタ。彼ハ足ヲ使用シ得ナクナリ、
 漸ク歩キ始め得ル程デシタ。終ニ彼ハ死亡シマシタ
 毆打サレタ澳洲人ノ一部ハ私ノ様ニ足ヲ使用スル事
 ガ出來ナクナリマシタ。肥エタ人々ハ其レ程苦痛シ
 マセンデシタガ、瘡セタ人々ハ苦痛シマシタ。
 私ノ体重ハ曾達百四十七封度アルノデスガ捕虜收容
 所カラ出タ時ハ百二十六封度程デシタ。一度体重ガ
 百十九封度達減少シタ事ガアリマシタ。一年前迄ハ
 相當ノ食物ガ給與サレマシテ生存ガ出來マシタ。
 然シ最後ノ年ニ於テ八月カラ終戦迄ハ一日ニ四「オ

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ンス」ノ米ト誰レモ他ノ人ハ食フ事ノ出来ス處ツタ
局待着ガ少量配給サレタノデシタ。毎朝誰カ殴ラレ
ル事、或ハ罰セラレル事、或ハ脱ラレル事ハ一部ノ
人ニハ普通ノ事デシタ。

吾々ハ動作緩慢ノ故ヲ以テ、或ハ小屋カラノ外庭ガ
少シ通クレタ故ヲ以テ殴ラレタノデシタ。

何時モ大變ツマラヌ事ノタメニ殴ラレマシタ。

「イキウチ」ハ掃蕩邊ノ滄イ所トカ置物等ヲ殴ツタ
主ナル人デアツタ。

後ハ或ル日「ウエストレー」少佐ノ置物ヲ園兵ニ通
クレタ故ヲ以テ殴リマシタ。

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ンス」ノ米ト誰レモ他ノ人ヘ食フ事ノ出来ヌ廣ツタ
馬侍着ガ少量配給サレタノデシタ。毎朝誰カ殿ラレ
ル事、或ハ罰セラレル事、或ハ脱ラレル事ハ一部ノ
人ニハ普遍ノ事デシタ。

吾々ハ動作緩慢ノ故ヲ以テ、或ハ小屋カラノ外庭ガ
少シ遅クレタ故ヲ以テ殿ラレタノデシタ。

何時モ大變ツマラヌ事ノタメニ殿ラレマシタ。

「イキウチ」ハ掃蕩進ノ滯イ所トカ置物等ヲ殿ツタ
主ナル人デアツタ。

彼ハ或ル日「ウエストレー」少佐ノ置物ヲ園兵ニ遅
クレタ故ヲ以テ殿リマシタ。